by him is fundamental. The Bill originally introduced referred to minors alone. The Council affirmed the principle and the Select Committee to which it was referred revised it with reference to that principle. The present motion virtually introduces a *new* principle, and I seriously doubt whether, at this stage, we could enlarge the scope of the Bill as proposed. It seems to me that one of two courses may be adopted: either to proceed with the Bill as it is, reserving the provisions relating to lunatics for a separate enactment or, if the Member in charge of the Bill prefers it, and the Council agrees, to allow him to withdraw the Bill and introduce a new Bill on the lines now suggested and deal with it *ab initio*. I would, therefore, support the amendment.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—The object of Mr. Kunhiraman Nair is no doubt good. But considering that the original Bill was exclusively confined to minors and the principle affirmed by the Council was with reference to them alone, I doubt whether the scope of the Bill can now be extended. No doubt there have been cases in which a Bill that once passed through the Select Committee was referred back to it for further consideration, and the objections raised by the opposer of the motion against referring back this or any other Bill to a Select Committee are not, to my mind, quite cogent. But I think they were all cases where the principle of the Bill was not interfered with. Here, the original Bill was restricted in its scope to only one class of incapables while the amendment now sought to be introduced extends it to other classes entirely distinct from those contemplated by the Mover of the original Bill. I am, therefore, unable to support the motion.

President:—The Bill before us will require a thorough recasting throughout, if its scope is to be extended to lunatics. Such an amended Bill would, before its reference to the Select Committee, require publication as an original Bill, to give the public an opportunity of expressing their views upon it. Moreover, in British India there are two enactments relating to lunatics. Mr. Kunhiraman Nair desires to include in this Bill only the cases governed by Act XXXV of 1858. If his motion be granted, there will still be the necessity to introduce another Bill in respect of lunatics sent to the Lunatic Asylum. Considering the strong objections to the inclusion, at this stage, of lunatics in the Minors Bill, and the desirability of bringing in a Bill embodying the provisions of Acts No. XXXV of 1858 and No. XXXVI of 1858, the most convenient way of dealing with the subject seems to me to be, that the present Bill should proceed on the lines on which it was introduced, and that a new Bill be brought dealing with all matters connected with lunatics.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

Mr. Kunhiraman Nair then moved that the Bill be taken up for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Thanu Pillai.

Carried.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—I have already obtained the permission of the Council to introduce a Bill to regulate weights and measures in this country. The Bill has just been published in the Gazette, but as it is not yet 15 days since the date of its publication, either the introduction of the Bill has to be deferred or Rule 33 should be suspended to enable me to introduce it now. I do not propose to move for the discussion of the principle to-day but would defer it to the next meeting, so that the public may have ample time before them. I beg to move that Rule 33 may be suspended to enable me to introduce the Bill at this meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Thanu Pillai.

The Council having suspended Rule 33, Mr. Rajaram Row introduced the Bill and moved that the discussion of the principle be taken up for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Thanu Pillai.

The motion was put and agreed to.

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